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SIR Beniamin Rudyerd HIS SPEECH

Made concerning the *French* and *Spaniſh* Embaſſadors requeſt for our Souldiers at their Disbanding,

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Mr. Speaker,

THis is a Buſineſſe of great Conſequence, and therefore requires a wel-adviſed Reſolution. I will put *France* and *Spaine* together, take them both before mee, becauſe the Reaſons will ſerve one another, as they ſtand in Relation to us:

Wee are, Maſter *Speaker*, ſo bounded by the nature of our Situation, as wee are not ſo proper to extend our ſelves upon the firme Land of our Neighbours; Our Aptitude is rather to Ballance, which being rightly uſed may make the King the great Arbiter of all the Affairs of Chriſtendome, by *Aſſiſting*, With-holding, or Oppoſing.

Henrie the Eighth is an Example of This; He was ſometimes of the ſide of the Empe-

rour, other times of the *French* Partie, according as hee ſaw either ſide of the Scales to weigh heavier or lighter; Some might think this to be Inconſtancie in him, but it was certainly out of a true and peculiar underſtanding his Power.

The preſent State of Chriſtendome is apparant, That the Houſe of *Auſtria* begins to diminiſh, as in *Spain*, ſo conſequently in *Germanie*. That the *French* doe ſwell and enlarge themſelves: if they Grow and Hold, They will be to us but *Spaine* neerer hand.

Alliances do ſerve well To make up a preſent Breach, or mutually To ſtrengthen thoſe States who have the ſame Ends; but Politike Bodies have no Naturall Affections, they are Guided by particular Intereſt, and beyond That are not to be truſted.

*A*lthough it may be good Policy to breed a *Militia* at the charg of other States abroad for our own uſe and occaſions at home, yet That ought rather to bee done amongſt Friends of the ſame way, and ſo the *Low Countries* have been an *Academie* to us.

His Majeſtie hath now an Embaſſador treating

treating with the Emperour about the *Palatinate*, If we ſend away our Men, it will ſo damp and diſcountenance the *Affaires* of the Prince Elector, as the World will believe, we never had, nor ever ſhall have any Intentions, to *Aſſiſt* him at all.

I have obſerved for divers yeers, That *England* is not ſo well Peopled, but wee do want Work-folks to bring in Harveſt, Our disbanded Souldiers will leaſt diſlike that kinde of work, and if they be ſpeedily diſſolved, That Employment will entertain them for the preſent, and inure them to labour for hereafter.

Vpon theſe Conſiderations, *Mr. Speaker*, I cannot give my advice to adde more ſtrength to *France*, by weakning both our ſelves and our Friends.

As for ſending the *Iriſh* into *Spain*, Truly, Sir, I have beene long of Opinion, That it was never fit to ſuffer the *Iriſh* to be promiſcuouſly made Souldiers abroad, becauſe it may make Them abler to trouble the State when they come home. Their Intelligence, and practice with the Princes whom

whom they ſhall ſerve, may prove dangerous to that Kingdome; They may more profitably be employed upon Husbandry, whereof that Countrey hath great need.

Beſides, it will be exceeding prejudiciall to us, and to our Religion, If the *Spaniard* ſhould prevail againſt the *Portuguez*.

It were better for us Hee ſhould be broken into leſſer pieces, his Power ſhivered.

If the King of *Portugall* had deſired theſe *Iriſh*, I ſhould rather have given my vote for Him, then for the King of *Spaine*, becauſe it would keepe the Ballance more even; *Spain* hath had too much of our Aſſiſtance, and connivence heretofore; I am ſure it loſt us the *Palatinate*. Now that it is come to our Turne to adviſe, I hope wee ſhall not Do-over other mens faults again.

If the preſent Government of *Ireland* be not able to reſtrain their diſordered People, there is a Noble Lord already deſigned to that Charge, who by his knowledge in Martiall Affaires, and other his great Abilities, will be, no doubt, abundantly capable, to reduce them to a due obedience.

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Wherefore, *Mr. Speaker*, upon the whole Matter, My Opinion is, That wee ſhould not be forward to ſpend our Men, but rather to Preſerve and husband them for our own uſe and Employments, for our Friends, for our Religion.

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